

Minutes of the Regular City Council Proceedings of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois held Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at 1601 Chicago Road, Chicago Heights, IL.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gonzalez called the regular meeting of the Chicago Heights City Council to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CLERK RACHEL VEGA

Mayor:	David Gonzalez	Present
Council:	1 st Ward Renee Smith	Present
	2 nd Ward Sonia Perez	Present
	3 rd Ward Wanda Rodgers	Absent
	4 th Ward Christopher Baikauskas	Present
	5 th Ward George Brassea	Present
	6 th Ward Vincent Zaranti	Present
	7 th Ward Kelli Merrick	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS

Alderman Smith announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Saturday, November 12th at 11:00 a.m. at Barack Obama School.

Alderman Perez announced that she would host her next ward meeting on Monday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. at Garfield School.

Alderman Rodgers - absent.

Alderman Baikauskas announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Michele Baikauskas on Monday, October 24th at 6:00 p.m. at Roosevelt School.

Alderman Brassea announced that he would host his next ward meeting on Wednesday, November 30th at 6:00 p.m. at 222 Vollmer Suite LC.

Alderman Zaranti announced that he would host a joint ward meeting with Park Commissioner Curtis Straczek on Monday, October 31st at 7:00 p.m. at Commissioners Park.

Alderman Merrick announced that she would host a Halloween Costume Giveaway event on October 22nd from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Smith/Ashland Park. The event also included free pumpkins, a pumpkin carving station, and an art contest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

REPORT OF CHIEF OF STAFF – KAREN ZERANTE

Chief of Staff Zerante reported on current projects: road improvements throughout the city; the 16th Street road improvement project; the annual sidewalk repair program; and the Saratoga Farms storm sewer improvement project. Soon to start was the annual leaf pickup program, and repeat spraying and removal of new overgrowth in alleys on the East Side and Hill areas. COS Zerante noted that Halloween trick or treat hours were 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL—T.J. SOMER

Corporation Counsel Somer reported that the City would receive an allocation of \$4,800 per year for the next twenty years resulting from its participation in the National Opioid Lawsuit. The award was the result of a settlement with defendant Johnson and Johnson. However, other defendants in the lawsuit were still in litigation. The City would determine use of the funds in accordance with the requirements of the settlement.

1. MINUTES: MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2022. MINUTES.

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Perez seconded, a motion to approve the minutes.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

2. BILLS: APPROVAL OF FIRST RUN OF OCTOBER 2022.

Alderman Zaranti moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,881,979.21.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

3. OMNIBUS RESOLUTION #2022 – 97 : APPROVING AGREEMENTS TO INDUCE THE SALE AND REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED SURPLUS RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO THE CITY'S APAP PROGRAM. (1614 Aberdeen & 273 W. 15th Place).

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel Somer stated approval was sought in order to complete the sale of the two properties. No discussion.

4. RESOLUTION #2022 - 98 : APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A PUMPER TRUCK FOR THE CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

Fire Chief Jeffrey Springer reported that the pumper was a 2022 E-One Typhoon Demo Pumper, a class one truck with all the standard equipment. It would replace the 1990 truck that had 146,000 miles on it. Mayor Gonzalez noted cost of the truck was \$557,106. Discussion was held on the matter.

5. RESOLUTION #2022 - 99 : APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF TWO 2022 FORD EXPLORERS FOR THE CITY PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER DEPARTMENTS.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

COS Karen Zerante stated that total cost for both vehicles was \$87,234, which represented the discounted, government pricing for the vehicles. No discussion.

6. RESOLUTION #2022 - 100 : APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM "M&J UNDERGROUND" FOR THE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF CERTAIN ROADWAY SINK HOLES.

Alderman Perez moved, and Alderman Smith seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

COS Zerante asked for permission to move forward on twenty-two sanitary and storm sewer emergency repairs at a cost of \$ 279,751.14. C. Burke Engineering, consultant to the City, confirmed that the repairs were of an emergency nature due to sink hole depth and other complications. No discussion.

**MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION;
USE OR DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED LAND; OR PERSONNEL ISSUES (IF NECESSARY).**

7. RESOLUTION #2022 – 101: APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT OF CERTAIN CIVIL LITIGATION (Case #21 CV 06689) AS PRESENTED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION (AND BY MEMORANDUM) OF THIS DATE.

Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to approve the resolution.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers

Motion to approve carried.

Corporation Counsel stated that he conferred with each of the aldermen and received no request to move to executive session, therefore, direct action on the matter could be taken.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:33 p.m. Alderman Smith moved, and Alderman Merrick seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Smith, Perez, Baikauskas, Brassea, Zaranti, Merrick

Nays: none

Abstain: none

Absent: Rodgers

Motion to adjourn carried.

Lori Wilcox, City Clerk